

Amendments to the Claims

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of inventorying data carriers (2) by means of a communication station, wherein said communication station and each data carrier (2) are brought into communicative connection, and wherein each data carrier (2) brought into communicative connection with the communication station generates a response signal (IDS) enabling the inventorying of the data carrier (2) after at least one operational condition has been fulfilled and supplies said response signal (IDS) using a transmission start moment that can be chosen from a plurality of transmission start moments (t_5, t_6), and wherein each data carrier (2) before providing its response signal (IDS) tests whether another data carrier (2) is already providing its response signal (IDS), and wherein each data carrier (2) discontinues the provision of its response signal (IDS) if another data carrier (2) is already giving its response signal (IDS).

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each data carrier (2) already before generating its response signal (IDS) tests whether another data carrier (2) is giving its response signal (IDS), and wherein each data carrier (2) discontinues the generation of its response signal (IDS) if another data carrier (2) is already giving its response signal (IDS).

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~claim 1 or 2~~ claim 1, wherein the response signal (IDS) given is an identification signal.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~claim 1 or 2~~ claim 1, wherein the transmission start moment is selected by a random principle.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~claim 1 or 2~~ claim 1, wherein the selected transmission start moment is shifted in time by a selectable discrete delay period (T_D) with respect to a command signal end (t_4) of a command signal (CCO) given by the communication station.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~claim 1 or 2~~claim 1, wherein the number of selectable transmission start moments (~~t5, t6~~) is greater than the number of data carriers.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a data carrier (~~2~~) that has given a response signal (~~IDS~~) can be set to an idle state by the communication station, in which idle state no response signal (~~IDS~~) is provided.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data carrier (~~2~~), which data carrier (~~2~~) is designed for contactless communication with a communication station and which comprises an integrated circuit (~~3~~), which integrated circuit (~~3~~) comprises the following means: response signal generation means (~~44~~) for generating a response signal (~~IDS~~), start moment selection means (~~45~~) by which a transmission start moment can be selected from a plurality of transmission start moments (~~t5, t6~~), and response signal recognition means (~~20~~) designed for recognizing a response signal (~~IDS~~) given by another data carrier (~~2~~) and for generating and delivering a response signal recognition signal (~~ASDS~~), and wherein delivery decision means (~~50~~) are provided which release or block a delivery of the response signal (~~IDS~~) in dependence on the response signal recognition signal (~~ASDS~~) and the transmission start moment.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data carrier (~~2~~) as claimed in claim 8, wherein the response signal generation means (~~44~~) are formed by identification signal generation means.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data carrier (~~2~~) as claimed in claim 8 or 9, wherein the response signal recognition means (~~20~~) are designed for recognizing a carrier signal (~~CS~~).

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data carrier (~~2~~) as claimed in ~~claim 8 or 9~~claim 8, wherein the response signal recognition means (~~20~~) are designed for recognizing a modulated carrier signal (~~MCCO~~) and for this purpose comprise demodulation means which are designed for demodulating a modulated carrier signal (~~MCCO~~).

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit ~~(3)~~ for a data carrier ~~(2)~~, which data carrier ~~(2)~~ is designed for contactless communication with a communication station, said integrated circuit ~~(3)~~ comprising the following means: response signal generation means ~~(44)~~ for generating a response signal ~~(IDS)~~, start moment selection means ~~(45)~~ by which a transmission start moment can be selected from a plurality of transmission start moments ~~(t5, t6)~~, and response signal recognition means ~~(20)~~ designed for recognizing a response signal ~~(IDS)~~ given by another data carrier ~~(2)~~ and for generating and delivering a response signal recognition signal ~~(ASDS)~~, and wherein delivery decision means ~~(50)~~ are provided which release or block a delivery of the response signal ~~(IDS)~~ in dependence on the response signal recognition signal ~~(ASDS)~~ and the transmission start moment.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit ~~(3)~~ as claimed in claim 12, wherein the response signal generation means ~~(44)~~ are formed by identification signal generation means.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit ~~(3)~~ as claimed in ~~claim 12 or 13~~ claim 12, wherein the response signal recognition means ~~(20)~~ are designed for recognizing a carrier signal ~~(CS)~~.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit ~~(3)~~ as claimed in ~~claim 12 or 13~~ claim 12, wherein the response signal recognition means ~~(20)~~ are designed for recognizing a modulated carrier signal ~~(MCCO)~~ and for this purpose comprise demodulation means which are designed for demodulating a modulated carrier signal ~~(MCCO)~~.